



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,989	12/06/2001	Raymond Walden Bennett III	SBC 0110 PA	1221

34456 7590 03/15/2006

LARSON NEWMAN ABEL POLANSKY & WHITE, LLPL.L.P.  
5914 WEST COURTYARD DRIVE  
SUITE 200  
AUSTIN, TX 78746

EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Note: Final rejection on this case is withdrawn in view of Applicant's arguments presented via Pre-Appeal brief request review. A new rejection follows in order to address arguments presented by the applicant with respect to some claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries et al. (US PAT: 5,621,662, hereinafter Humphries) in view of Kilby (US PAT: 3,793,487) and Launey et al. (US PAT: 5,086,385, hereinafter Launey)

Regarding claim 11, Humphries discloses the following: placing the security controller in night mode to generate security controller state (fig. 14A, col. 13 line, 53 – col. 14, line 44), communicating the security controller state to the call management controller (20, fig. 3) so as to place it in night privacy state (col. 6 lines 38-45, col. 8 lines 48-54; col. 14 lines 39-43).

Humphries differs from the claimed invention in that he does not teach the following: utilizing voice processing system having speech recognition functionality to process a verbal command from a user to set the night mode; in response to an incoming phone call, prompting the incoming caller to leave message or ring through for an emergency, transferring the caller to a voice mail box unless the call is emergency call, and allowing the caller to ring through to a telephone set if the call is an emergency • ←

However, Launey teaches the following: utilizing voice processing system having speech recognition functionality to process a verbal command from a user to set the mode (abstract, col. 3 lines 24-28); Kilby discloses system for screening calls which teaches the following: in response to an incoming phone call, prompting the incoming caller to leave message or ring through for an emergency, transferring the caller to a voice mail box unless the call is emergency call, and allowing the caller to ring through to a telephone set if the call is an emergency (abstract and col. 11 lines 4-8).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Humphries' system to provide for the following: utilizing voice processing system having speech recognition functionality to process a verbal command from a user to set the night mode as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, to control security system components as taught by Launey; in response to an incoming phone call, prompting the incoming caller to leave message or ring through for an emergency, transferring the caller to a voice mail box unless the call is emergency call, and allowing the caller to ring through to a telephone set if the call is an emergency as this arrangement would facilitate to meet users' personal needs for receiving the telephone calls while user does not wish to be disturbed as taught by Kilby .

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphries in view of Kilby and Launcy as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Smith (US PAT: 5,166,972)..

The combination differs from claim 12 in that it does not teach the following: the step of allowing the caller to ring through a telephone set specifically comprises the step of distinctively ringing the telephone set to denote emergency.

However, Smith discloses Group emergency call system which teaches the following: distinctively ringing the phone to denote emergency (col. 3 lines 30-38).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Humphries' system to provide for the following: the step of allowing the caller to ring through a telephone set specifically comprises the step of distinctively ringing the telephone set to denote emergency as this arrangement would facilitate to discriminate between normal calls to their homes and an emergency call as taught by Smith.

4. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier et al. (US PAT: 5,596,633, hereinafter Meier) in view of Schneider et al. (US PAT: 4,856,072, hereinafter Schneider) , Kilby and Gifford et al. (US PAT: 6,549,612, hereinafter Gifford)

Regarding claim 21, Meier discloses a security system with call management functionality coupled to a telephone network for providing at least one telephone service, the telephone network having at least one telephone line, the security system comprising: a call management controller (reads on 5, fig. 1) coupled to the telephone network for individually enabling, disabling or modifying each the telephone service (figs. 1-2, col. 2, line 28- col. 3, line 31, col. 4 lines 6-9), a security controller (reads on 23, fig. 1) coupled to the call management controller, plurality of sensors (for example

Art Unit: 2643

29, fig. 1) coupled to the security controller coupled for providing home security function (col. 4 lines 10-25), wherein the telephone service comprises at least one, automated attendant, voice mail delivery (col. 3 lines 20-31, col. 4 lines 6-21).

Meier differs from claim 21 in that he does not specifically teach the following: a voice processing system coupled to security controller and having speech recognition functionality for processing verbal commands from a user so as to operate the security system; Meier further differs from claim 21 in that although he teaches services like automated attendant, voice mail delivery (col. 3 lines 3-31), he does not specifically teach night mode privacy, follow me service, kid control, maid minder.

However, Schneider discloses voice activated security system which teaches the following: a voice processing system coupled to security controller and having speech recognition functionality for processing verbal commands from a user so as to operate the security system (col. 5, line 19 – col. 6, line 12); and providing other services such as night mode privacy, follow me service, kid control, maid minder are well known in the art: for example: for night mode privacy (see abstract and col. 11 lines 1-8 of '487), follow me service (see col. 11 lines 31-40 of '612).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Mier's system to provide for the following: a voice processing system coupled to security controller and having speech recognition functionality for processing verbal commands from a user so as to operate the security system as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods for processing commands to a security system as shown by Schneider; further

Art Unit: 2643

provide services such as night mode privacy, follow me, kid control, maid minder as these are well known useful services to be provided for users in order to accommodate their needs, some of these services are shown by Kilby and Gifford.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier et al. (US PAT: 5,596,633, hereinafter Meier), Smyk (US PAT: 6,161,128), Griffith (US 6,356,752), Kilby and Gifford et al. (US PAT: 6,549,612, hereinafter Gifford)

Regarding claim 22, Meier discloses a method of providing call management functionality for a security system coupled to a telephone network, the security system including a call management controller and a security controller, the method comprising: providing at least one telephone service wherein at least one telephone service comprises at least one of service selected from the group consisting of automated attendant, voice mail delivery (figs. 1-2, col. 2, line 29 –col. 3, line 31), selectively modifying each of the at least one telephone service in response to user presence by identifying user presence (figs. 1-4, col. 4, line 41 – col. 5, line 2).

Meier differs from claim 22 in that he does not teach the following: utilizing a voice processing system having a speaker verification functionality to identify the user to generate user identity; selectively modifying each of the at least one telephone service in response to user identity; further although Meier shows providing at least one telephone service wherein at least one telephone service comprises at least one of service selected from the group consisting of automated attendant, voice mail delivery (figs. 1-2, col. 2, line 29 –col. 3, line 31); he does not specifically teach night mode privacy, follow me service, kid control, maid minder.

However, Griffith teaches utilizing a voice processing system having a speaker verification functionality to identify a user to generate user identity (col. 3 lines 44-47); Smyk teaches selectively modifying each of the at least one telephone service in response to user identity (col. 11 lines 22-36, col. 3 lines 45-52); and providing other services such as night mode privacy, follow me service, kid control, maid minder are well known in the art: for example: for night mode privacy (see abstract and col. 11 lines 1-8 of '487), follow me service (see col. 11 lines 31-40 of '612).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Mier's system to provide for the following: utilizing a voice processing system having a speaker verification functionality to identify the user to generate user identity as this arrangement would facilitate to identify bona fide user of the service as as taught by Griffith; selectively modifying each of the at least one telephone service in response to user identity as this arrangement would facilitate user to change his telephone services as taught by Smyk after verifying user identity; further provide services such as night mode privacy, follow me, kid control, maid minder as these are well known useful services to be provided for users in order to accommodate their needs, some of these services are shown by Kilby and Gifford.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier, Smyk, Griffith, Kilby and Gifford as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Dean et al. (US PAT: 5,901,211, hereinafter Dean).



The combination differs from claim 18 in that he does not teach the following: monitoring at least two locations to determine user location based upon the user identity, and transferring a caller to the user location.

However, Dean discloses system and method for automatically transferring calls or allowing access which teaches the following: monitoring at least two locations (for example in the hotel room or outside the hotel room) to determine user location based upon the user identity, and transferring a caller to the user location (col. 2 lines 45-58).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: monitoring at least two locations to determine user location based upon the user identity, and transferring a caller to the user location as this arrangement would enable the user to receive calls wherever he is located between two locations as taught by Dean, thus enhancing user convenience.

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier, Smyk, Griffith, Kilby and Gifford as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Borg et al. (US PAT: 4,578,540).

Regarding claim 19, the combination does not teach the following: step of providing service includes providing kid control, further comprising the step of restricting outbound calls based on user identity.

However, Borg discloses telecommunication systems which teaches the following: step of providing service includes providing call control, further comprising the step of restricting outbound calls based on user identity (col. 2, lines 19-29).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: step of providing service includes providing kid control, further comprising the step of restricting outbound calls based on user identity as this arrangement would provide a system to prevent misuse of telephone system by users as taught by Borg, thus exercising control over telephone usage.

8. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over as Meier, Smyk, Griffith, Kilby and Gifford applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Eisdorfer et al. (US PAT: 5,724,411, hereinafter Eisdorfer).

Regarding claim 23, the combination teach the following: associating a phone line (19, fig. 1) to correspond to the user identity, determining user presence based upon the user identity (i.e presence of user at a given telephone) allowing the caller to ring through to a telephone set if user presence is detected and telephone set is not being used, transferring the caller to a voice mail box that corresponds to the user identity if the user presence is not detected (col. 2, line 39-col. 3, line 17 of '633); but he does not teach the following: generating distinctive call waiting signal to denote which user is being is called and telephone set is being used

However, Eisdorfer discloses the following: distinctive ringing signal to denote which user is being is called and telephone set is being used (col. 2 lines 43-62).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Meier's system to provide for the following: distinctive ringing signal to denote which user is being is called and telephone set is being used

Art Unit: 2643

as this would provide means for alerting the particular recipient to receive the call as taught by Eisdorfer.

***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-12, 18-19, 21-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2643

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Melur Ramakrishnaiah  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2643